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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**FORMER TSA BAGGAGE SCREENER CONVICTED OF
TAKING JEWELRY FROM PASSENGER LUGGAGE**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that KENT M. GARRETT, 33, of Indianapolis was sentenced by U.S. District Judge David F. Hamilton to five years probation and 6 months home detention following his felony conviction for converting property of another while being an employee of the United States. The charge followed an investigation by the Transportation Security Administration.

On February 14, 2003, GARRETT was employed by the Transportation Security Administration to screen passenger bags at the Indianapolis International Airport. While working in that capacity, he removed various items of jewelry valued at \$5,000 from passenger bags, including a watch, a bracelet and a ring. The ring was the property of Dallas Williams. It was awarded him as the Indianapolis Indians Most Valuable Player of 1987. These items were recovered by Transportation Security Administration security personnel.

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According to Assistant United States Attorney Christina McKee, who prosecuted the case for the government, GARRETT was also fined \$2,000. GARRETT's employment with the Transportation Security Administration was terminated on September 15, 2003, after he admitted the thefts to TSA security personnel.

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